

SOUTHWEST COORDINATING GROUP (SWCG)

Meeting Minutes, May 19 – 20, 2005

Attendance:	Agency	E-Mail	Phone
Tom Beddow	FS - SW	tbeddow@fs.fed.us	505-842-3206
Cal Pino	BIA – SWRO		505-563-3385
Loren DeRosear	FWS – SW	loren_derosear@fws.gov	505-248-6848
Ken Castro	NPS – IMR	Ken_Castro@nps.gov	505-988-6027
John Selkirk	BLM – NM	John_Selkirk@blm.gov	505-438-7431
Nancy Neskauskas	NM – NMS	Neskauskas@state.nm.us	505-476-3348
Pam McAlpin	BLM – AZ	pmcalpin@blm.gov	602-615-1501
Ron Melcher	AZ State Fire	ronmelcher@azstatefire.org	602-255-4059
John Kwait	BLM – NM	John_Kwait@blm.gov	
Dugger Hughes	SWCC	dhughes@fs.fed.us	505-842-3880
Leon Ben Jr.	BIA – WRO	mail364900@pop.net	602-379-6798

Old Business:

AD Letter - Letter is done and in to Pam for signature.

Raws Station Funding

520-620 Nominations - NAFRI has been notified and Roger Corner's understanding is that all nominations will come to him from SWCG

Williams Gateway Mob Center

**BLM will pay for first month; FS month 2; BIA month 3; park service month 4 or cost share with BIA if national severity kicks in.

Type 1 Team Support

**Ken Castro will send last \$1000 to the Teams for FY 05. Ken will also write a letter for Pam's signature for each team to prepare a fy-06 purchase plan for their needs. Barring a plan, there will be no funds allocated to team support.

SWCC Storage Shed

**BLM AZ or State of NM will fund the storage shed.

Subcommittee charters

**Jay to pull all the charters together for the next SWCG meeting review and approval. At least post on the web for each member to review.

National Interagency Rx Guide

**Discussed briefly and discounted as not SWCG Business.

New Business

Fire Planning Analysis - John Selkirk

**Deadline handout provided.

--June 1; 2/3 FPU id'ed and ready to draft run by Nov 15th.

--July 15; draft runs complete

--Oct 1; FPU boundary final

--Nov 15; submit draft runs

--Feb 15, 06; final submission

--Sept 30, 06 local transition

February on is very critical dates for line officer agreements for implementing the new organization allocation of resources...who's and where. Charters will need to be developed to form the basis of the fy-08 budget allocations. These charters will be agreements between line officers affected by the FPU.

- A template of a charter is being developed and will go out to line.

- A line manager training package is also due out this month. The FPA Steering committee will go on the road to present the charters and ramifications of the resource distribution.

- Each Board member will maintain contact with line managers via e-mail or memo to keep the urgency for their participation high. Handout FS Letter to line managers referencing deadlines given to the other agencies as information for line managers.

- SW FPA Steering Committee will provide council to fire planning unit committees on final decisions on FPU boundaries.

Smoke Coordination

Lisa Bye BLM NM Smoke Coor

- **3 handouts & 1 map

- Letter statement of need for smoke coordination

- Draft smoke Ops plan

- Appendix H NM Smoke Rule

- NM Air Basins Map

Lisa requested support of the SWCG and two AICG/NMICG working groups to develop a zone smoke management operations plan with additional coordination requirements added by the local zones for specific needs.

- **Decision: Pam will draft a letter to AICG & NMICG to begin working with

Lisa Bye and Bob Lineback on the development of a Zone Smoke Coordination Plan.

Fire Restrictions Coordination

Kerry Templin BLM AZ

- **one point of contact needed for the media

- **frustrated by the lack of coordination between the agencies

(Bill Waterbury FS)

- **the fire restriction tool box was developed to provide information and tools to plan and coordinate restrictions.

- **Line managers have the responsibility to insure coordination between agencies and states.

Decision: Keep the web site up with current restrictions and include all known planned restrictions and take advantage of the conference calls with line officers and FMO's to re-enforce the importance of the coordination needs.

Three-Tier Dispatch - Ron Melcher AZ State

Update and Discussion - Ron is the chair of the Three-Tier Committee. This task was first chartered to look at the establishing a three-tier dispatch network. The committee has completed a formal draft charter however Ron is not prepared to present this to present to SWCG.

Ron's comments not representing the committee:

- **forcing this decision through the SWCG should be re-considered and a

course change should be made.

****suggested that local zone boards should prepare the plan to meet a three tier dispatch for the zone.**

****establish a drop dead date for a Zone to submit a plan for moving to three tiers.**

****Pam agreed with Dugger!!!!**

Decision:

****Amend the charter for the Committee, to provide focus work of the committee from "doing" to "steering".**

****Establish guidelines to be sent to the zone board and line officers to establish a plan for the board.**

****determine a critical time line for moving to three tiers including a drop dead date for the planning effort. The time line and drop dead date will be submitted to SWCG for concurrence.**

Predictive Services – Chuck Maxwell

Changes are afoot in Predictive Services, with improved nationally standardized products and services expected to be in place by 2006. A major hurdle to the program in the Southwest continues to be the lack of integrity of the RAWS/NFDRS program. Every regulation, standard or after action report regarding NFDRS and RAWS is being violated on a daily basis by interagency units in the Southwest. The problems are too vast and complex to highlight appropriately in this synopsis. The nature of the problem is such that Predictive Services can progress no further and the national standards cannot be adhered to without management action. Despite dedicating nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of a GS-12 FTE to addressing these problems over the past $\frac{1}{2}$ years, little lasting impact has been made. The following must be achieved for the 7-day outlook product to work, and for Predictive Services to be ultimately effective:

- ERC for the G model must be added to all the stations to be used by Predictive Services (Action #211; List of stations to be provided by Predictive Services; Action - Letter from SWCG?)

Decision: Letter will be issued to each unit requesting ERC G Model be added to the NFDRS RAWS Station Registers.

- The % of missing daily observations for each the same stations, which currently averages around 40%, must be below 15%.

- RAWS/NFDRS coordinator duties for the Asst. Fire Meteorologist must be reduced so that appropriate time can be spent on product development and implementation. Role would change to one of monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the program.

Decision: BLM AZ would add to their severity request to bring in a RAWS/NFDRS Technical Specialist to work for Predictive Services to clean up missing data, and rectify issues with the various stations.

- Strongly recommend that resources be assigned to address and reconcile the problems with the RAWS/NFDRS program

Decision: A letter will be sent to the SW Strategies Group to apprise them of the continuing problem with the RAWS/NFDRS Program and the potential liability if

the data, maintenance and management are not corrected. Tom Beddow agreed to draft the letter for review of the board and signature of the chair. The chart below reflects the problem areas and the amount of red indicated where Predictive Services cannot guarantee satisfactory predictions.

Decision: The Weather Committee and Operations Committee will be asked to coordinate an action plan to improve management of the RAWs/NFDRS Program. FWS is responsible for the SWCG Liaison with these two committees.

Station Name	PSA	ID	Agency	ERC-G?	%Missing 2000-05	%Missing Apr. '05	90th %WS		TODAY	G Added	Ignore History	Ignore Wind
Flagstaff	SW01	20209	FS	N	0%	19%	18		X	X	X	X
Frazier Wells	SW01	20213	BIA	N	52%	100%	18		X	X	X	X
Tusayan	SW01	20207	FS	N	0%	30%	9		X	X	X	X
Drypark	SW01	20212	FS	Y	0%	100%	6		X	X	X	X
Iron Springs	SW02	20501	FS	N	3%	4%	17		X	OK	OK	OK
Stanton	SW02	20509	BLM	N	5%	48%	17		X	X	X	X
Squaw Lake	SW03	45801	BLM	N	5%	33%	16		X	X	X	X
Albino	SW04	290102	BLM	N	0%	41%	14		X	X	X	X
Washington Pass	SW04	290101	BIA	N	30%	100%	11		X	X	X	X
Piney Hill	SW04	20402	BIA	N	25%	100%	10		X	X	X	X
Lakeside	SW05	20303	FS	Y	2%	52%	14		X	X	X	X
Heber	SW05	20301	FS	Y	0%	52%	12		X	X	X	X
Muleshoe Ranch	SW06	21007	BLM	N	23%	48%	15		X	X	X	X
Globe	SW06	20601	FS	N	3%	7%	13		X	OK	OK	OK
Saguaro	SW06	21202	FS	Y	3%	0%	13		OK	OK	OK	OK
Columbine	SW06	21005	FS	Y	6%	100%	11		X	X	X	X
Grants	SW07	291302	FS	Y	5%	26%	16		X	X	X	X
Jemez	SW07	290702	FS	Y	3%	96%	11		X	X	X	X
Pelona	SW08	292009	BLM	N	2%	11%	17		X	OK	OK	OK
Beaverhead	SW08	292001	FS	Y	2%	15%	11		X	X	X	X
Slaughter	SW08	292008	FS	N	2%	11%	10		X	X	OK	OK
Alpine	SW08	20401	FS	Y	0%	52%	8		X	X	X	X
Hatchett	SW09	292702	BLM	N	2%	11%	19		X	OK	OK	OK
Dripping Springs	SW09	292903	BLM	N	2%	11%	18		X	OK	OK	OK
Bosque	SW09	292103	FWS	N	3%	11%	14		X	OK	OK	OK
Pecos	SW10	291202	FS	Y	12%	100%	17		X	X	X	X
Truchas	SW10	290210	FS	Y	2%	74%	12		X	X	X	X
Mountainair	SW11	291501	FS	Y	5%	26%	16		X	X	X	X
Mescal	SW12	293003	BIA	Y	2%	7%	18		OK	OK	OK	OK
Mayhill	SW12	293002	FS	Y	1%	26%	13		X	X	X	X
Smokey Bear	SW12	292203	FS	Y	2%	7%	*8		OK	OK	OK	OK
Cedar	SW13	418701	NPS	Y	1%	0%	18		OK	OK	OK	OK
Caprock	SW14	293104	BLM	N	0%	4%	23		X	OK	OK	OK
Panther Junction	SW14	417401	NPS	Y	9%	0%	12		X	X	X	OK
				Average:	6%	39%	14					

SWCG Committee Liaison

Amendments to the Committee Liaison were discussed with the following changes agreed to:

Committee
AICG
NMICG

Chair
Lorene Guffey - FWS
Susan Lee – FS

Liaison
AZ State
NM State

Communication	Donna Nemeth	FS
Engine Operators	Mike Tucker – FS	NM State
Fire Business Mgt	Billy Zamora	BIA
Operations	Bill Waterbury (interim) - FS	FWS
Type 2 Crew	Mark Hammon – BIA	BIA

* Items in Red are corrections.

Next Meeting: July 7th and 8th in Albuquerque NM. The meeting will start at 1000 through 1400 on the 8th.